

LITTLE BLUE NUMBER 16

LITTLE BLUE NUMBER 16, June 2023, is an issue of a mailing comments apazine published by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122. Produced only for ANZAPA (the Australian and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association). E: perry@middlemiss.org

This fanzine acknowledges the members of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which it is produced in Hawthorn, Victoria, and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

INTRODUCTION

I have bowed to the desires of he-who-rules, ie OBE David Grigg, in that I will no longer produce these fanzines on a blue background. David says it's too much work, or too difficult to read, or too hard to print, ...or something. You know how OBEs are? Any little deviation from the norm and it's "off with their heads". Anyway, just so you don't think I've forgotten the origins of the name and colouring of LBN, here's something to remind you:

**Little Blue
Number 16**

R.I.P. Go you blue thing!

GOINGS-ON IN THE GROVE

There hasn't been a lot going on in the Grove of late, or if there has been I haven't noticed it. There is one house renovation that looks like it's nearly completion down north towards Barkers Road – they had essentially gutted the place and then rebuilt inside the remaining shell – and the new set of townhouses at the corner of Elphin Grove and Barkers is moving ahead quite well. The house on that block was demolished a couple of years back so I suspect the building project was held up the pandemic: directly (lack of staff) and indirectly (lack of materials), and then lack of available staff due to all the other projects.

So it's quiet.

At least on the geographical front. As to the inner world within 32 Elphin Grove things have been decidedly hectic. We got back from Morocco on the 18th May totally zonked after another long and difficult flight only to have to get up early the next morning and head into the city for the Good Food and Wine Show, an all-day event in the Exhibition Hall next to the venue of the 2010 Worldcon. If we hadn't already paid a cool \$140 each for our tickets I suspect we might well have passed up the opportunity to attend this year. Luckily though we had the VIP tickets again (woo-hoo!) which gave us somewhere to sit

Little Blue Number 16

during the day and unlimited coffee to hand. The organisers had got a little miserly this year by only allowing us five (5) standard drinks during the day; last year it was unlimited. Anyway five was more than enough, along with a few other wine and spirit tastings during the day.

I can't say as I appreciated the event as much as previous outings. I was just too out-of-it. Still and all, it was a good day and we enjoyed it. Slept all night that Friday night I can tell you.

After that I had an issue of **Perryscope** I wanted to complete by the end of May – I got it out a day or so late, but the fact that I finished it at all was something of a miracle.

That left me looking at this **ANZAPA** deadline, with mailing comments to be written. Should be no problem, I thought, I've got a week. And then Murray MacLachlan, convenor of the Nova Mob, the Melbourne monthly sf discussion group, told me that he was planning a memorial for the late Australian sf author Lee Harding, and could I look after presenting his bibliography. Yeah, righto, I thought, and got started.

And no sooner had I got started then I came across a note from Vincent Docherty of FaceBook pointing out that the Greg Pickersgill Wikipedia page had been slated for deletion, and that unless some major work was done on it within the next few days it would be no more. Could someone help? Yeah, righto, I thought, and got started.

This was getting ridiculous.

Those of you who remember my piece about editing Wikipedia in **Perryscope 16** will recall my need to get well away from this sinkhole after a number of run-ins over possible page deletions. Yeah, I remembered that as well, but thought I could just make a few changes here and there and all would be well. Nope. The page took a fair amount of work to massage into shape, and still the editor who wants to delete it wasn't satisfied. Normally I'd be about done by this stage but, thankfully, Orange Mike (who I now discover is a Wikipedia Administrator) and Bill Burns both stepped in with arguments in favour of retention, so I was able to make all the changes required and then remove the deletion notices. Somehow I don't think this matter is all over however.

And, for various reasons, it got me looking at other Wikipedia pages – some of my old ones, and some relating to other sf fans. The picture isn't that good. There is a lot of work to be done, so... I'm sure you can guess the rest. All material for another **Perryscope** article I think.

Along the way I attended the memorial get-together for Lee Harding at Jimmy Watson's in May. I wasn't intending to speak there but thought I'd best put in an appearance. I was late, but I do plead the need to fulfil a few family things – like shopping etc – in the morning. I'd expected that there would be copious amounts of drinking, with some people eating food, and that the speeches wouldn't start until quite late.

How wrong I was. I only got to hear about 3 of the speakers that afternoon, so I have no way of knowing how many people spoke or what they said. I did, however, get to speak to Leigh Edmonds and Robin Johnson, a couple of old friends that I had not seen face-to-face in way too long, probably since pre-COVID days. That was an unexpected bonus.

Little Blue Number 16

I had a few drinks, as you do, but not too much as I was driving, and wandered around to speak to a number of people. And I also remembered to take a few photos. Some of you may have seen these on FaceBook already but I suspect they are worth another outing as some of you won't have seen them.



Here you can see Race Matthews (back, left of middle), Jack Dann (middle), Carey and Jo Handfield, and Natalie MacLachlan (back right), among others who I don't recognise.



At the front Julia Hilton; at the back Murray MacLachlan (left) and Leigh Edmonds (right) with others.

Little Blue Number 16



A different angle on the first one above, and now we can recognise Elaine Cochrane (front left), Robin Johnson at the back left, Craig Hilton standing, Race Matthews, Bruce Gillespie, and Rob Gerrand (all back right).

Afternoons such as these are always sad in parts and enjoyable in others. Such is life.

Back to the daily grind and in the long run I got the Lee Harding bibliography completed in time for the meeting, and carried out the presentation. I think it went okay, but who am I to judge? During the Nova Mob meeting I mentioned that it was my aim to ensure that the various bibliographies – Austlit and ISFDB (the Internet Science Fiction DataBase) – all had the full list of Lee’s stories, and I’ll be aiming to get to that some time over the next few weeks.

And now I find myself with two days to get my mailing comments done. I’m sure they will be as perfunctory as usual.

Simple!

Comments on Mailing 332

OBE Stuff – David Grigg

All good, I think.

DAJA VOO #TRAY – Derrick Ashby

I am sorry to have missed the gathering of ANZAPAnS in Greensborough in late February, but family commitments held sway. I think the idea of a regular lunch/get-together is a good idea. Maybe a picnic in better weather in October? After the deadline for that issue of course, otherwise our esteemed OBE will kill us all if we hold it on the mailing weekend! David is not a man to be crossed, let me tell you! ●

Little Blue Number 16

Quoz 88 – Claire Briailey and Mark Plummer

Mark – Re Rumpole: I think the image of Leo McKern as Rumpole overtook everyone's view of the character. I seem to recall Mortimer saying that, in later years after the tv series adaptations had started, that he was unable to visualise Rumpole as anyone other than McKern. We have a couple of paperback editions of the novels or short stories in the house and I'm sure the cover illos picture Rumpole looking remarkably like a certain Australian actor. I hope he got some filthy lucre out of that outcome. But I doubt it. ●

I envy you your easy access to the Belfast Corflu. I would have liked to have been there but cost and time made that rather impossible. ●

A Little for ANZAPA– Leigh Edmonds

They say that you can never go home again, but it sounds like you did and rather enjoyed your time with your sister. Pity it had to be under those circumstances.

I had a similar opportunity to go home when my old town of Laura, in South Australia, decided to hold their 150th anniversary last October. I remember the 100th anniversary 50 years back when my father was still Chairman of the District Council. But I couldn't make this new event as that was the weekend Robyn and I started our cruise out of Vancouver up to Alaska. Just a bit too far to go back for the weekend! My brother went along and by all accounts it was a pretty good time. Though I suspect some of it might have seemed like to replay of the 1973 event. ●

Rhubarb 100 – Foxen

Congratulations on achieving the century. Hope you raised your keyboard and saluted the crowd! ●

He Went Galumping Back 6 – David Grigg

Good to hear you complaining about an app on your phone. It makes me think that there's hope for me yet. ●

You sound a lot like me in that we do tend to take on more projects than we can reliably work on. No sooner than I finish one task when I find I've committed myself to two or three more. At least it keeps me busy. ●

You do realise it will take me a few mailings to get over the trauma of not having a blue background here. I think Australian blue paper fanzines should be given a heritage listing! ●

Frank V Earnest – Jack Herman

ReYCtoLeigh about Graham Stone: I didn't have lot to do with him but the definition of "fannish fellow traveller" seems a good one. ●

ReYCtoMe about Chengdhu: If we are going to boycott based on particular government policies then, as I think I've noted previously, Australia's worldcons should have been

Little Blue Number 16

boycotted due to our treatment of, well, just about everyone. I've travelled to a number of countries with authoritarian governments (Singapore, Cambodia, Morocco, USA) but haven't felt the need to boycott them. Am I providing the government with tacit support? Maybe, but I'm not taking their money like some sportsmen, or dealing with them in arms like some governments. I feel I'm putting back a bit into their economies which will mainly help the people on the ground. ●

ReYctoMe about Morse TV prequels: I haven't gotten into *Endeavour*. I just haven't actually given it a try. I have heard good things about it but can't seem to get up any enthusiasm for the task. I still intend to keep reading the original Morse novels. I'll just have to hope they start to pick up a bit. I suspect so. ●

Gaston J. Feeblehare 29 – Kim Huett

My thanks for the list of fanzine titles, and the relevant stats, that you have extracted from fanac.org. I hadn't realised I had so many titles up there.

What I would like to see is a bar graph of Australian fanzines by year or decade. That might show some interesting variations over time. ●

Sketchy 18 – Christina Lake

I was sorry to read of the loss of your brother. There have been way too many of these of late. ●

I envy your trip to Belfast for Corflu. Robyn and I really enjoyed our time there after the Dublin Worldcon in 2019 and I would have been happy to go back. But time, distance and money argued otherwise. From all reports it sounds like everyone had a great time. ●

Nevil Shute's books are certainly on my radar though I just haven't gotten to them yet. Which may seem odd, but there we are. ●

Kingdom of the Bland – Eric Lindsay

There is certainly an Apple store at Chadstone, though I'm not so sure about a Tesla establishment. There is certainly a multi-port Tesla charging station – and has been for some years – at the bottom entrance of the car park near Myer that we use. For a long time they also had a Tesla car on display just inside the mall at the bottom of the escalators. But that has long since departed. Visiting the shopping centre will become a lot easier in the future, though that will be a long way down the line. The state Government is aiming to build an outer-suburban train network which will link Chadstone and Monash university to the existing network for the first time.

You can see details of the proposal here:

<https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/library/suburban-rail-loop/fact-sheets/suburban-rail-loop-project-overview>

There is rather a lot of opposition to this mainly due to its huge cost. But I'm at least glad

Little Blue Number 16

this government is looking at the needs of the next generation of people living in Melbourne, rather than just concentrating on the next election cycle. ●

MOZ 37 – Murray Moore

I fear that the good times of “Nino Culotta” are now well past us. The idea of the “fair go” has been strained to breaking point by a series of mean Coalition Governments who tried to divide us more than unite us, with some connivance from a lacklustre Australian Labor opposition. We aren’t ever going back to that time, which is good in some ways but sad in others. And, yes, I am aware of my male, white privilege speaking here. Not all of it was good. But it never is. ●

ReYCtoMe about rubbish: I most certainly did “raid” hard rubbish collections in my youth. Not so much any more; the missus wouldn’t have it. Leaving something out on the nature strip for someone to collect is rather frowned upon by the local council. ●

ReYCtoMe about slang: A “free square” in this instance refers to someone who requires no effort to be persuaded. It is taken from the idea of a “free square” in board games, in that you get something for practically nothing. Julian, here, is someone who needs no persuading to go along on a winery tour. ●

Mathom Volume 3 Number 1 – Mark Nelson

Welcome. I don’t think we’ve been in this apa at the same time previously. Though I’m sure that if we have I will be corrected. ●

Debussy 25 – Bob and Margaret Riep

That looks like a rather good driving holiday you had Canberra to Canberra in February. I’m sorry I didn’t get a chance to catch up when you were in Melbourne but family matters prevailed. ●

Is this Leicester 6 – Nigel Rowe

ReYCtoMe about Corflu: A Corflu in Australia would be a great idea – if someone other than me organised it. I occasionally think I should maybe, just maybe, dip my toe back in the convention-running water. But whenever I do I head off for a cold shower, or beer, and the feeling passes fairly soon and all’s right with the world again. ●

Erotic Wombat 27 – Gerald Smith

ReYCtoMe about Rutherglen: It’s good to hear that you have bene to, and enjoyed, the Rutherglen wine district. Anderson’s just happens to be my current favourite wine-maker and I, too, an a recipient of their twice-year wine packs. I used to get a number of these from various places but am now down to just one; the best of them all. ●

And that’s it for mailing 332: thanks to everyone else for their contributions. Read and enjoyed but...